

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 15-20, 22, 23, 25-28, 30-35 are withdrawn without prejudice. Claims 11, 12-14, 21, 24, 29 and 36 are amended. Accordingly, claims 11-14, 21, 24, 29, and 36 are presented for examination.

The examiner has rejected claims 11-15 and 36 under 35 USC 112 for indefiniteness. Claims 11, 24 and 36 have been amended to obviate this rejection.

The claims have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Shavit et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested.

The examiner states that the claim element “means for identifying the user as at least one of a store, distributor and supplier using the identifier” is met by the disclosure of Shavit at column 9, lines 52-58. However, this citation of Shavit only describes the use of personal profiles to limit access to the system for a given subscriber. There is no disclosure of the identification of a user as either a store, distributor or supplier. Moreover, there is no disclosure of a dynamic database that “includes contract information for the supply chain participants, and wherein the database is updated to reflect current information on at least an every other day basis.” This database permits the system to create a dynamic profile of a supply chain participant on a current basis, which could be current with updating every other day, or even real time updating. Moreover, much of the data displayed on the three web pages is different and idiosyncratic to the particular participant that has been identified.

The examiner admits that the claim element “means for displaying a second web-page if the user is identified as a store, a third web-page if the user is identified as a distributor, and a fourth web-page if the user is identified as a supplier” is not taught by Shavit, but states at page 3 of his office action that the automatic display of a different web page based on the type of identification of the user is an obvious design choice. Based on this statement, it is timely requested that this position of the examiner be substantiated with references that are prior art relative to this application, per MPEP 2144.03, and that a suggestion in the prior art be pointed out for a motivation to combine each of these elements to realize the claimed combination.

Regarding claim 21, and dependent claim 12, applicants' have found no disclosure in Shavit suggesting that after a contract is identified, a "means for preventing the item from being associated with more than one contract," either alone or with the claimed combination of elements. This is an important contract processing feature to prevent duplication contracts from being generated by different employees of an entity.

Regarding claim 29, and 14, as the examiner admits, Shavit does not disclose entering a query in a search field for one of the web pages, listing the results in a results field, and means for selecting the results from the results field for inclusion in a supply chain analysis.

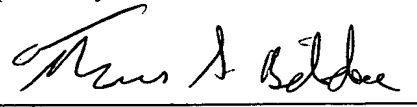
Finally, claim 36 contains a variety of limitations that are not in Shavit.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By  Reg. No. 43438
/s/ William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Date August 24, 2004
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399